

VZCZCXYZ0000  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSF #0248 1121535  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 211535Z APR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAHLA/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE  
RHMCSUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 0217  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4954

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 000248

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

PLEASE PASS TO S/CT, INL - ERIN BARCLAY, NSC - ADAMS AND  
STERLING, DHS - STEWART BAKER, FBI - JOHN MILLER, DOJ -  
ALICE FISHER AND CARL ALEXANDRE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/21/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#) [KCOR](#) [BU](#)  
SUBJECT: REFORMING THE BULGARIAN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

REF: SOFIA 229

Classified By: Ambassador John Beyrle for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) Prime Minister Stanishev's National Security Advisor  
Petko

Sertov told us that the PM wants to reform the Interior  
Ministry and has requested direct, expert advice from the USG  
on the best way forward. We must seize this unparalleled  
opportunity to shape the reform of what has been a  
chronically dysfunctional and corrupt Ministry.

ACTION REQUEST: We request Washington identify an expert or  
experts to travel to Sofia for initial consultations with the  
GOB. The Ambassador will meet the Prime Minister May 8; we  
need to be able to offer concrete details on our response to  
his request, including dates for the experts, travel to  
Sofia, before then.

12. (C) USG expertise was instrumental in shaping the  
creation of DANS (the State Agency for State Security)  
earlier this year. The PM obviously found that exercise  
useful, and worth repeating as he tackles MOI reform. The  
start-up of DANS intensified the need to reform the MOI,  
since many MOI responsibilities were transferred or altered.

The government had not yet moved forward on new MOI  
legislation when the scandal revolving around now-resigned  
Interior Minister Petkov overwhelmed the entire process. To  
pick up on the Prime Minister's request for U.S. expertise,  
we see consultations focusing on:

- legislative and legal framework and mandate;
- institutional, leadership and organizational structure;
- relationship with DANS and/or other government national  
security organizations;
- relationship with the prosecution service;
- external and internal safeguards, internal checks and  
balances; and
- personnel system and professional development.

The PM and Sertov are especially focused on three key areas  
that have huge political and operational  
importance:

- establishing a professional ethos;
- where best to base technical and surveillance  
competencies, authorities, and responsibilities;
- how best to overhaul (reform, or disband) the Main  
Directorate for  
Combating Organized Crime (GDBOP), which is compromised and  
wholly ineffective.

13. (C) Following the experts, initial consultations with Sertov, we will have a better sense of how we can design the most appropriate specific programs to address operational requirements. Follow-up discussions will be required, but our experience with the DANS consultations showed much of this work can be handled between Washington and Sofia with the Embassy as intermediary. The DANS success also shows that this is a serious request, and the GOB will adopt many of our recommendations, giving us a unique chance to promote our own interests by promoting serious improvements in Bulgaria,s law enforcement capacity and execution.  
Beyrle